



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor  
Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary-designee

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September 30, 2022

The Honorable Tony Evers  
Governor of Wisconsin  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53703

Mr. Edward Blazel, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
17 West. Main Street, Suite 401  
Madison, WI 53703

Mr. Michael Queensland, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Senate  
B20 Southeast, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers and Chief Clerks Blazel and Queensland,

In accordance with s. 16.993(6), Wis. Stats., please find enclosed a report concerning the Department of Administration's (Department's) activities under the Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) program for the biennium ended June 30, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the TEACH program and the Department's efforts to ensure State of Wisconsin students have access to high-speed Internet.

Sincerely,

Chris Patton  
Deputy Secretary

Enclosure

VIA EMAIL

# Technology for Educational Achievement Biennial Report

Biennium Ending June 30, 2022

## Overview

The Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) program administered by the Department of Administration's (Department) Division of Enterprise Technology (DET), primarily consists of an educational telecommunications access program that provides educational agencies access to subsidized data lines and to videoconferencing services; and an information technology block grant program to fund information technology (IT) infrastructure improvements for eligible school districts and libraries.

During the biennium ended June 30, 2022, the TEACH program expended \$28.3 million from the state Universal Service Fund and received \$5.5 million in federal E-Rate reimbursement. The TEACH Program also received \$2.6 million in cost sharing revenue from TEACH customers for the nonsubsidized portion of their data line.

## Educational Telecommunication Access Program

The educational telecommunications access program provides educational agencies, including school districts, charter school sponsors, juvenile correctional facilities, cooperative educational service agencies, private and tribal schools and colleges, technical college districts, state residential schools, public museums, and public libraries, access to subsidized data lines and to videoconferencing services. Participating educational agencies receive dedicated data lines up to 10 gigabits per second, which enables the entity to provide high-quality, reliable data access. As of June 30, 2022, there were 674 entities that participated in the TEACH program, including 274 public K-12 school districts and 345 public libraries. See TABLE 1, for the TEACH Customer Bandwidth Usage by Site Type.

TABLE 1  
TEACH Customer Bandwidth Usage by Site Type

	Mbps <sup>1</sup>						Gbps <sup>2</sup>					TOTAL
	6	20	50	100	200	500	1	2	5	6	10	
Public K-12	1	0	0	14	1	3	245	8	0	1	1	274
Public Library	0	43	166	119	1	1	11	2	2	0	0	345
Private K-12	0	0	0	3	3	0	14	0	0	0	0	20
Technical College	0	0	3	2	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	16
Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA)	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	11
Private College/University	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	6
State Residential School	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	1	44	169	142	5	4	294	10	3	1	1	674

Site information reflects actual customer count from June 2022.  
NOTE: While 10 Mbps is an available option for our customers, it is not shown on the table since no customers are currently using 10 Mbps.

The cost to participating educational agencies is statutorily limited<sup>3</sup> to \$100 per month for service under 1 gigabit per second and \$250 per month for service 1 gigabit per second or higher, up to the highest current offering of 10 Gbps. TABLE 2, shows the monthly costs for telecommunication access by bandwidth, including the monthly subsidized cost. The subsidy saves school districts, libraries, and other eligible organizations millions of dollars each year that can be spent on instructional costs.

<sup>1</sup> Megabits per second.

<sup>2</sup> Gigabits per second.

<sup>3</sup> Wis. Stats. 16.997(2)(d).

TABLE 2  
Monthly TEACH Costs by Level of Service

	Mbps						Gbps				
	6	20	50	100	200	500	1	2	5	6	10
Customer Cost <sup>1</sup>	\$100						\$250				
MSP Cost <sup>2</sup>	\$4	\$13	\$34	\$67	\$132	\$332	\$671	\$1,338	\$3,353	\$3,913	\$6,708
Connectivity Cost <sup>3</sup>	\$393	\$473	\$838	\$855	\$954	\$1,021	\$1,130	\$2,567	\$4,020	\$1,123	\$4,469
Subsidized Cost <sup>4</sup>	\$297	\$386	\$772	\$822	\$986	\$1,253	\$1,551	\$3,655	\$7,123	\$4,786	\$10,927

Prices reflect actual monthly costs and are rounded to the nearest dollar.  
 1: "Customer Cost" is the amount paid by TEACH or BadgerNet customers.  
 2: "MSP Cost" is the cost of the managed service provider, which is apportioned by level of service across all TEACH and BadgerNet customers.  
 3: "Connectivity Cost" is the cost of the data line, averaged by level of service across all contracted telecommunications providers.  
 4: "Subsidized Cost" is the sum of "MSP Cost" and Connectivity Cost" less the "Customer Cost."  
 NOTE: While 10 Mbps is an available option for our customers, it is not shown on the table since no customers are currently using 10 Mbps.

In addition to the preceding, educational agencies can also subscribe to BlueJeans video conferencing services to meet educational needs. Currently, the cost of BlueJeans services is fully subsidized by the TEACH program; that is, the service is provided to TEACH customers at no cost. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of BlueJeans license subscriptions more than tripled as participants used videoconferencing to provide at-home instruction to students. In the biennium ending June 30, 2022, DOA paid \$1.4 million for 2,226 BlueJeans video licenses for TEACH and BadgerNet customers.

Funding for TEACH, including the later described Information Technology Block Grant Program, is provided by the State's Universal Service Fund (USF). If the amount of USF funding is insufficient, federal e-rate aid, which is federal Universal Service Fund monies received by the Department as a reimbursement of costs incurred for the provision of data services, may be utilized. The customers for which the Department may request e-rate reimbursements include elementary schools, secondary schools, and libraries, and the amount reimbursed is calculated on a sliding scale based on the proportion of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program.

**IT Block Grant Program**

The IT Block Grant program funds IT infrastructure improvements and certain IT services based on the density of students for school districts<sup>4</sup> and the distance from an urban area for public libraries<sup>5</sup>, as defined in State statutes. The program was created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, and from fiscal years 2017 to 2021, more than \$13 million in grants were awarded, including \$3 million to 128 school districts and 13 libraries in fiscal year 2021 alone. DET has a robust grant monitoring program in place to track previously-awarded grants as the funds are spent down. The IT infrastructure grant program was not funded in the 2021-23 biennium and, accordingly, no new awards will be made.

<sup>4</sup> Wis. Stats. 16.9945(2).

<sup>5</sup> Wis. Stats. 16.9945(2m).